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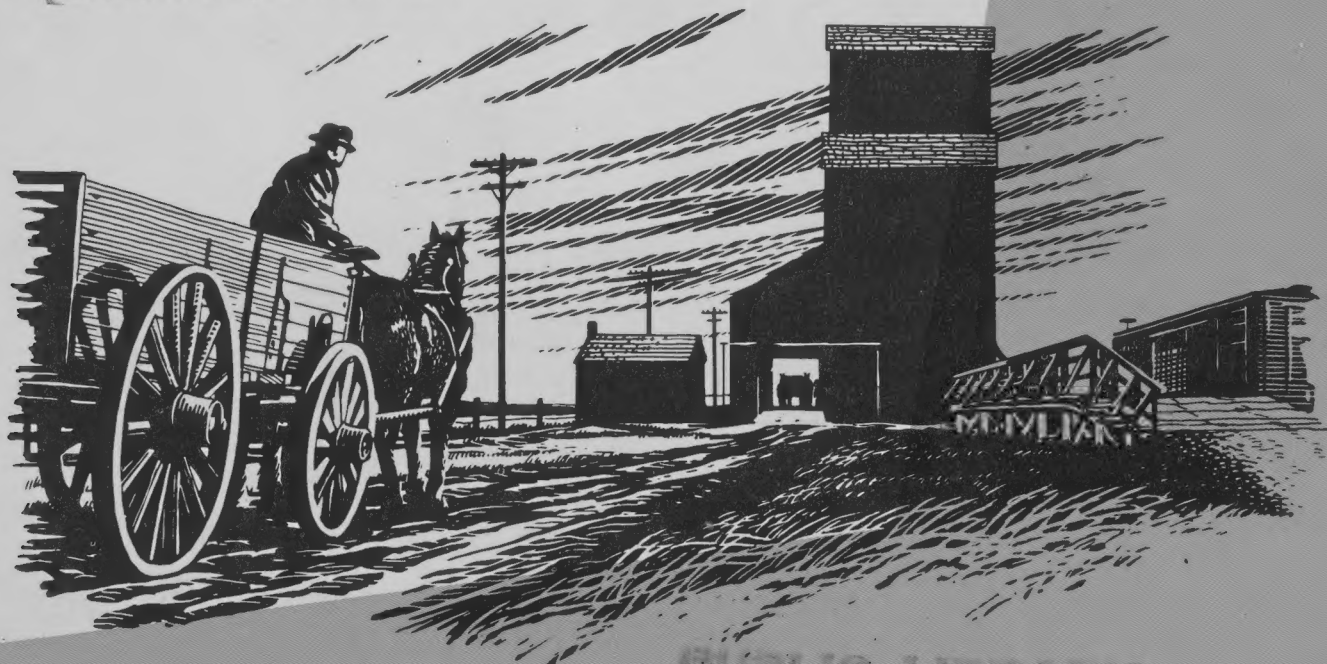
The Story of Farm Organization in Saskatchewan

FARM MOVEMENT DAY

INDIAN HEAD

August 19, 1955

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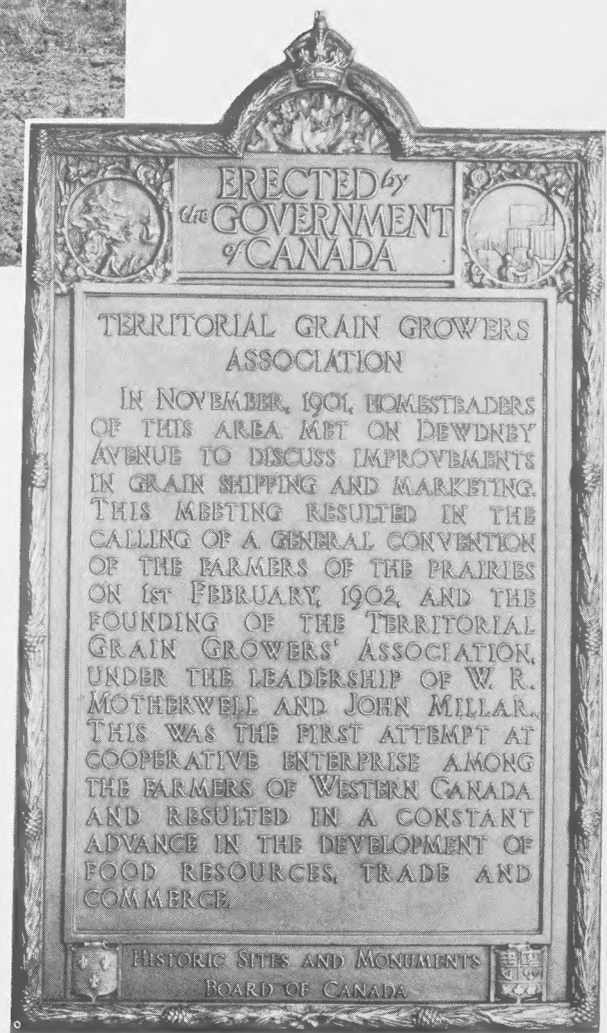
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*The Story of
Farm Organization
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W. R. Motherwell — 1903



Peter Dayman — 1903

The Territorial Grain Growers' Association

THE pioneer Saskatchewan farmers were rugged men, independent and self-reliant. Those who were not endowed by nature with the ability to stand on their own rough-shod feet and work out their own problems, soon learned the lesson through necessity. They were isolated in a new country, and what they could not do themselves there was no one to do for them.

Self-reliant though they were, the pioneers never held themselves aloof from their neighbors. From the time the first settler followed his wailing ox-drawn cart into the North-West Territory, the door of the homesteader's sod shack was open and a helping hand was readily extended wherever it was needed. Co-operation was an intrinsic part of pioneer life.

The early co-operation took the form of bees for raising sod shacks or barns, or harvesting the crop for a sick neighbor. The formally organized farmers' co-operatives followed naturally from this beginning as the country progressed. Just as the bee was organized to do what the individual farmer was unable to do for himself, so the farmer co-operatives were formed to meet problems which were too large for individual action.

The particular problem which brought about the birth of the Territorial Grain Growers' Association was a vital

one. Grain production on the Canadian prairies was established by 1900, but the pioneer had no sooner solved the elementary agricultural problems than he found his economic position threatened. Basically, the question was one of transportation. In 1886 western farmers had shipped about 11 million bushels of wheat. This amount was doubled by 1890, and the 1899 crop was four times as large. This grain all had to be moved in a relatively short period during the fall, because of road, weather and shipping conditions, and the result was serious congestion at marketing time. There were no storage facilities either on the farms or at market centres, and loading of cars by hand was a slow and laborious business.

To alleviate the situation, the Canadian Pacific Railway offered a monopoly of grain handling at each marketing centre to anyone who would erect a suitable grain elevator there. Hundreds of elevators were built in response to this offer, and a considerable improvement in loading and storage facilities in the west resulted. But the monopolistic conditions which prevailed at elevator points placed the farmers at the mercy of grain buyers. Producers could no longer procure their own cars and ship their grain direct or sell to commission men. They had no alternative but to sell to the local elevator, on whatever terms the grain handler chose to offer.



Loading grain over the platform

Accustomed to ordering his own affairs, the farmer resented his situation deeply. Some elevator companies used their preferred position to the full, offering the farmer low grades, short weight, excess dockage or unfair prices. Even the honest dealers were viewed with suspicion, as the bitterness and discontent increased. It was evident, too, that the elevator companies were working together and offered no real competition to each other.

The farmers turned first to the government for help. Their complaints resulted in the formation of a Grain Commission in 1899, and in accordance with its recommendations the Manitoba Grain Act was passed in 1900. This provided for general supervision of the grain trade by a warehouse commissioner to whom complaints could be taken. In addition, the farmer was granted the right to ship his own grain and to build flat warehouses to facilitate loading. The railway was required to furnish loading platforms where necessary.

In the fall of 1901, armed with the legal right to market his own grain, the farmer found himself unable to get railroad cars. The grain crop was the largest the country had ever known, and the railroad was totally unprepared to move it. The elevators were filled, and day after day farmers hauled their grain over the rough prairie trails, stood on the street beside the wagon all day long, and hauled their grain home again at night because they could not deliver it. Bitterness and resentment smoldered as the season wore on and it became apparent that much of the grain would be left to deteriorate on the farms over winter.

The situation was particularly bad around Indian Head, and it was here that two farmers John Millar and John Sibbold, sponsored a farmers' meeting of protest in the late fall of 1901. One of the fifty or so farmers who attended this meeting was W. R. Motherwell, who had farmed in the Abernethy district since 1882. Like his neighbors, Motherwell resented the injustices of the situation, but he was a level-headed man and deplored the violence which was threatened by the more radical farmers.

Not long after this meeting, Motherwell and a neighbor, Peter Dayman, met one night and discussed the situation at length. It was after midnight when Motherwell, with Dayman's approval, drafted an invitation which was signed by the two men jointly, and sent to fourteen district farmers. It suggested a meeting at Indian Head on December 18, for the purpose of forming a permanent association of grain growers.

The date was chosen to coincide with a debate between the premiers of Manitoba and the Territories, on the advisability of annexing East Assiniboia to Manitoba. Crowds came to hear the debate, and incidentally attended the farmers' meeting which preceded it during the afternoon. Without fully realizing the importance of their action, the men at that meeting formed themselves into a Territorial Grain Growers' Association, with W. R. Motherwell as provisional president. Plans were made for the first convention to be held at Indian Head on February 1, 1902. Meanwhile the members busied themselves with publicizing the enterprise, gaining new members and forming new branches.

The convention elected Motherwell president and John Millar secretary, and named directors. Then, with characteristic directness, the farmers proceeded to outline their grievances and put their demands into a resolution to be forwarded to Ottawa. They asked that railways be required to furnish cars to farmers at all points irrespective of loading facilities, and that cars be allotted in the order in which they were called for. In May 1902, the Manitoba Grain Act was revised in accordance with these demands.

With their organization already justified by this success, the farmers moved into the fall season with renewed confidence. The 1902 crop was even larger than that of 1901, and the railway was once more unprepared to move it. Again a serious car shortage developed, and it soon became apparent, as well, that the railway had no intention of abiding by the provisions of the act in allotting cars.



It was at this station that the pioneer farmers enforced the terms of the Manitoba Grain Act.



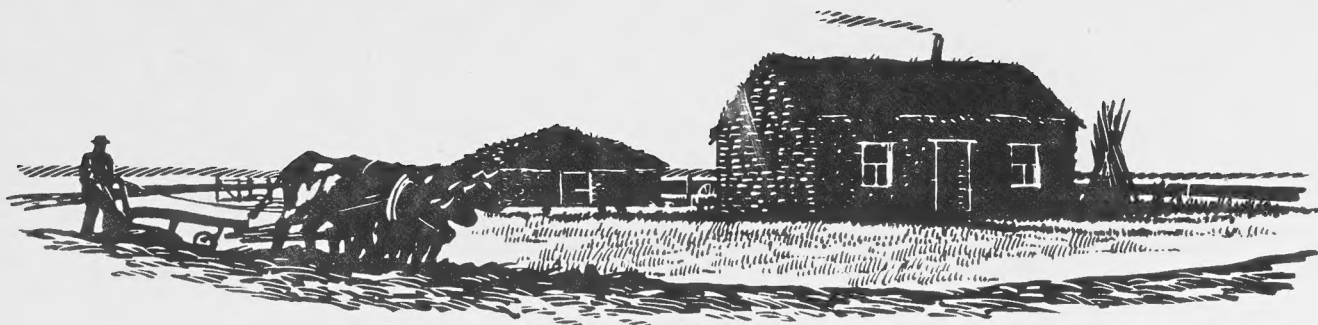
Elevator companies loaded car after car, while the farmers went without.

But now the farmers were prepared to act together to assert their rights. Motherwell and Dayman were sent to Winnipeg where they warned the C.P.R. officials that unless cars were apportioned fairly the Territorial Grain Growers' Association would take the matter into court. They received vague assurances of better treatment, but the situation remained unchanged. Accordingly they brought suit against the station agent at Sinteluta, charging him with breaking the law by refusing to allot cars in turn. The case was regarded as a test by both sides, and attracted large crowds and the best legal counsel. To the great satisfaction of the farmers, who had scarcely dared hope

that their young organization could challenge the great company successfully, the agent was found guilty and the railway compelled to pay his fine. When the case was appealed without success, no further legal action was necessary. The company took its defeat with good grace, and thereafter the farmers found that cars were made available to them at all stations, in their proper turn.

This was the first in a long series of victories for co-operative farm organizations. The Territorial Grain Growers' Association provided the foundation upon which the farmers' educational and co-operative movements were built, and for this beginning, as for so many other things, we owe a debt of gratitude to the pioneers whose courage and foresight prepared the way for future progress.





The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association

WHEN the province of Saskatchewan was formed in 1905, local units of the Territorial Grain Growers' Association within its boundaries formed themselves into the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. This organization continued to operate as an educational force and a means of organized farm effort for over 20 years.

In 1905 the Sintaluta local unit began agitation for a producer owned grain company. Many of the individual members of the S.G.G.A. supported the idea wholeheartedly and worked to make the new company a success, but the S.G.G.A. as a unit stayed aloof. It took a more active interest a few years later, in obtaining producer owned elevators.

In 1909 the S.G.G.A. presented a petition to the legislature, asking legislation to provide for government owned storage facilities. The commission suggested, instead, a co-operative elevator company which would distribute profits on a patronage basis. The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company was established in 1911, closely under the wing of the S.G.G.A., with all members of its provisional board chosen from the Grain Growers' executive. The company operated successfully until 1926, when it was bought by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool for an arbitrated price of \$11,059,000. By this transaction the Pool became the biggest single grain handling concern in the world, as well as one of the largest owners of elevator facilities.

The S.G.G.A. continued to offer valuable leadership to producers over the years, with such men as Charles Dunning, J. Maharg, F. W. Green, George Langley and J. B. Musselman rising from its ranks to take an active part in public life. But gradually it lost strength. It joined the Farmers' Union in working for the formation of the Wheat Pool, and in 1927 it amalgamated with the Union to form the United Farmers of Canada.

It was during the period that the Saskatchewan Grain Growers Association was giving leadership to the farm movement that Saskatchewan farm women began to take their place in agricultural councils. Many women in many parts of Saskatchewan had played their part along with their husbands in community and agricultural work. But it was Mrs. Violet McNaughton, M.B.E. of Harris who went to the 1913 convention of the S.G.G.A. to argue for a special place for women in the farm movement. She was successful in persuading the S.G.G.A. to establish the Women's Section of the organization. The next year, Mrs. McNaughton was its first president. In 1919, she was elected as the first woman member of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. From this beginning, western farm women have contributed to many phases of the Farm Movement. Over the years since the formation of the first farm women's organization, their contribution to better farm living standards has been second to none.



The Farmers' Union

THE amalgamation of the Farmers' Union and the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' association was not a new alliance. The Union sprang originally from the ranks of the S.G.G.A. As executive members of the parent organization became more and more embroiled with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company, and even began to take government posts, radical S.G.G.A. members became increasingly dissatisfied. Resenting the commercial and political ties of an organization which had begun as a farmer's educational and protective force, these men broke away and in 1921 formed the Farmers' Union.

The first vigorous action taken by the new Union was in support of the pooling idea. At the time of its inception, the Union had set its aim at organizing so that farmers "may be enabled to fix their own price above the cost of production." Farm Union leaders and organizers advocated a contract pool that would handle and market the farmers' grain as one means to that end.

In 1923 when the S.G.G.A. announced that it would proceed with the formation of a voluntary pool to market the 1923 crop, the Farmers' Union took strong exception. It sent a message to Aaron Sapiro, California lawyer and authority on co-operative marketing, to come north and take part in the pooling drive.

Late in the summer of 1923 he came to Western Canada, and his brilliant eloquence supplied the stimulus necessary to crystallize determination of farmers to set up their own wheat marketing machinery. He managed also to bring the S.G.G.A. and the Farmers Union together and persuade them to sink their differences. It was too late to secure a contract pool in Saskatchewan for 1923, but the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool began operations the next year.

In 1927 the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the Farmers' Union of Canada (Saskatchewan Section) amalgamated under the name United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section). John A. Stoneman, a former farm union official, was chosen president. One of the first acts of the new organization was to divorce the S.G.G.A.

trading department and establish it as an independent commercial co-operative wholesale.

The years from 1927 to 1949 were difficult ones for the farmer, covering as they did the drought and depression, and the Second World War. They brought the collapse of the pooling system and the eventual establishment of a compulsory government wheat board. Throughout these years the U.F.C. carried on a program of educational and legislative work, but interest and membership declined. Finally, in 1949, the association reorganized and changed its name once more, this time to the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union with J. L. Phelps as president.

The policies of the Union, developed and widened with the years, remain basically the same as those laid down by the pioneers at Indian Head 50 years ago: it is non-political, has no commercial ties, and its interests are centred on seeing that legislation affecting agriculture is for the benefit of the farmer. Parity prices for farm products and equality of agricultural income with that of other Canadian industries are the main S.F.U. planks, but its interests reach into every sphere of legislative and economic life affecting agriculture. In its program it advocates a comprehensive all-risk crop insurance plan; low-cost rural credit; representation of farmers on all government bodies dealing with agricultural problems; land conservation; producer marketing boards; and better health and educational policies for rural communities.

Twice in 50 years the Saskatchewan grass-roots farmers' movement has ventured into politics — the first time in 1921 when the Progressive movement was born; the second time in 1932 when the U.F.C. launched and supported the farmer-labor group. Today the S.F.U. puts its faith in organized strength and in co-operation with other organized groups in society to attain its aims, rather than in direct political action.

Its sole financial support comes from membership dues, and the Union feels strongly that all farmers who benefit by its organized efforts should contribute to its maintenance and support.

A good start at homebuilding: But the bleakness of the bald prairie was a great trial to many prairie women.



Program

O CANADA

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. JUSTICE E. M. CULLITON, *Chairman*

WELCOME TO INDIAN HEAD

MAYOR DOUGLAS

THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

MR. J. OBERHOLTZER, *Deputy Minister, Industries and Labour*

THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

HON. D. L. CAMPBELL, *Premier*

THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

HON. T. C. DOUGLAS, *Premier*

A TRIBUTE TO THE PIONEERS

RT. HON. J. G. GARDINER, *Minister of Agriculture*

REPLIES:

DR. VIOLET McNAUGHTON, M.B.E., HON. CHARLES A. DUNNING,
SENATOR T. A. CRERAR

CEREMONY OF UNVEILING

SHANNON MOTHERWELL

TRANSFER OF SITE

RICHMOND MAYSON

*Historic Sites and Monuments Board
of Canada*

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN



FARM MOVEMENT DAY—INDIAN HEAD

AUGUST NINETEEN
nineteen hundred and fifty-five



The United Grain Growers

HAVING won the right to ship their grain as they pleased, through the early efforts of the Territorial Grain Growers' Association, the farmers turned their attention once more to production. But the marketing problem still was far from settled. The producers' distrust of the grain handlers had not died, and they felt uneasily that others were making an unduly large profit from prairie grain.

The grain marketing system was a complex one, and not too well understood by the farmers. In order to gain some first-hand knowledge of the system, and to determine whether unfair grading, price fixing and illegal mixing were actually being carried on, the Sintaluta local of the Grain Growers' Association sent one of its members, E. A. Partridge, to Winnipeg as a scout in January, 1905.

Partridge was a large man, with an active fearless mind and boundless enthusiasm. He was regarded as a spy by the Winnipeg moguls of the grain trade, and without their co-operation it was difficult for him to learn much of the inside workings of the market. But he found evidence of price fixing, of mixing at the terminals and other abuses, and he came home with the conviction that the farmers could improve their position by entering the grain marketing field themselves. His plan was viewed without enthusiasm by delegates at the annual convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association which he addressed on his return journey, but he found ready support for the idea in his own local organization.

As soon as the 1905 crop was down, Partridge and four other farmers met in the local hardware store and drew up plans for the proposed grain company. Their new project failed to win enthusiasm at the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, but the undismayed members of the Sintaluta local proceeded to organize the Grain Growers Grain Company on January 27, 1906. The company was not, for the present, to own elevators, but to operate on a commission basis only. Shares were sold to farmers and each shareholder was to have only one vote.

Although the Grain Growers' Association as a unit continued to stay aloof, individual members offered support and joined in the stock selling campaign. One of the more active salesmen was John Kennedy of Swan River, who came to play an important part in the company's history.

The first major obstacle was encountered when the young company was refused a Dominion charter on a technicality, and had to settle for a more limited charter from the Manitoba government. With this authority, they arranged a shareholders' meeting in a tent on the fair

grounds during the 1906 Winnipeg exhibition. In these strange surroundings a provisional board of directors was appointed, with E. A. Partridge as president, John Kennedy vice-president, John Spencer secretary-treasurer, W. A. Robinson and Francis Graham.

One more major obstacle had to be overcome before they could prepare to receive the 1906 crop. After renting office space and completing their organization the company was left with only \$1000 to its name, and a seat on the exchange cost \$2500. Once more the Sintaluta local came



E. A. Partridge — "The man from Sintaluta".



Birth of Grain Growers' Grain Company—the First Farmers' Company—in a Tent at the Winnipeg Exhibition in 1906, when Provisional Directors were Elected.

Left to right: H. O. AYEARST (and daughter); W. H. BEWELL; JOHN SPENCER; JOHN KENNEDY; E. A. PARTRIDGE; DAVID RAILTON; T. W. KNOWLES.

to the rescue. Five of Partridge's friends gave their personal notes to the bank to secure the required \$1500 loan: Dave Railton, Al Quigley, Tom McLeod, Jim Ewart, and William E. Hall. The company hired an experienced manager, purchased its seat on the exchange, and declared itself open for business on September 5.

Meanwhile other dealers on the exchange were watching these activities with resentment. They felt that the farmers' business was production, and in the marketing field he was an unwanted intruder. This unfriendly attitude was exhibited with startling force in early November, when without warning the farmers' company was notified that its trading privileges on the exchange were suspended.

Partridge was summoned before the council of the exchange to answer two charges of "offending against the honor and dignity of the exchange" by the publication of certain pamphlets, and of splitting commissions through a proposed patronage dividend. There was some justification to both charges, but it soon became apparent that the exchange and its established dealers were anxious to wipe this new competitor out of existence before it became well established.

They very nearly succeeded, for grain was arriving daily from producers who had to be paid, and there was no place to sell it. The new company soon found itself with a serious overdraft at the bank, and the three members of the executive gave their personal bond without limit in order to keep their credit open. One or two lucky sales, and a purchase by the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, enabled them to stay in business. This organization's assistance was one of the earliest indications of the

solidarity of purpose which has repeatedly led one co-operative to lend a helping hand to another. The situation was resolved when the Manitoba government, urged by the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, intervened to have the company's trading privileges restored, and to curb the powers of the exchange by legislation.

One further attempt was made to cripple the farmers' company, when in 1909 the exchange suspended the commission rule for one year. Since the Grain Growers' Grain Company operated strictly on a commission basis this struck at the foundation of their financial structure, but the loyal support of the producers rendered this blow, too, ineffective.

Once the company was well established it began to look about for a way of obtaining elevators. Co-operative elevator companies had been formed meanwhile in both Saskatchewan and Alberta, and in 1917 the Alberta company amalgamated with the Grain company to form the United Grain Growers Limited.

The new company branched out and entered many fields. One of the earliest and most important of these new undertakings was the establishment of a paper to voice the farmer's point of view. This was named the Grain Growers' Guide, and appeared as a monthly in May, 1908. E. A. Partridge, who had meanwhile resigned from the executive of the Grain Company and been succeeded by T. A. Crerar, was the first editor. The Guide was instrumental in rallying the farmers to the support of their company when the commission rule was suspended, and has since been of great value in many other periods of stress.



Officers and Directors, Grain Growers' Grain Company, 1910-1911
Back row, left to right: George Langley, M.L.A., T.W. Knowles,
N. E. Baumunk, David Railton, E. A. Partridge, A. Von Mielecki.
Front row, left to right: D. K. Mills, Sec.-Treas.; John Kennedy, Vice-President;
T. A. Crerar, President; R. McKenzie, Second Vice-President; A. M. Blackburn, Manager.

The struggling little company which was established as a grain commission firm by a few Sintaluta farmers developed widely over the years. It soon owned and operated elevators; had an export department; a livestock commission department; a co-operative supplies and machinery department; the Grain Growers' Guide; the Public Press Limited; a loan department and insurance

department; the United Grain Growers' Sawmills Limited, controlled a timber limit and mill in British Columbia.

It takes pride in its present position, and it looks back with satisfaction upon past contributions to Saskatchewan agricultural history. Throughout its development, the organization has repeatedly offered a helping hand to other farmers' co-operative groups who were struggling to establish themselves in the west.



The Wheat Pool

LONG after they had gone into business on their own account, the possibility of price manipulation through the speculative market continued to be a sore point with western farmers. During and after the First World War the government handled all Canadian wheat as a means of controlling its allocation. For one year after the war, the farmers' wheat was sold through the Canada Wheat Board from which he received an initial payment and shared the final price when the crop was sold.

This taste of orderly marketing was much to the farmers' liking, and they continued to press for a similar system on a peacetime basis. When it became evident that the government had no intention of reviving the Canada Wheat Board, western farm organizations began to investigate farm marketing systems elsewhere. A committee sponsored by the Canadian Council of Agriculture recommended a five-year contract pool binding on all those who joined it. This plan was put aside late in 1921 in favour of another attempt to establish a government-sponsored board to handle all of the western wheat crop.

By 1923 it was evident that a government board was out of the question, and a voluntary pooling plan was again advanced at a meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, by T. A. Crerar, president of the United Grain Growers. The task of organizing the proposed pools was referred to the provincial farm associations which were members of the council.

In Saskatchewan, two farm organizations joined the appeal: the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the Farmers' Union. Early in 1923 the Farmers' Union invited Aaron Sapiro to Canada to assist in organizing a contract pool. The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association meanwhile was working on plans for a voluntary pool.

In spite of much enthusiastic work, the campaign failed to reach the goal of a 50% acreage sign-up and was postponed to 1924. The following spring the campaign was renewed and by June 26 more than 45,000 farmers, operating six and a third million acres, had agreed to deliver all their wheat to the new Saskatchewan Wheat Pool for the next five years. It was a triumph of enthusiasm and hard work on the part of thousands of farmers.

Two men who carried a great deal of the organizing burden during 1923 and 1924 were A. J. McPhail of Bankend, secretary of the S.G.G.A., and L. C. Brouillette of Landis, vice-president of the Farmers' Union. When the Pool was formally organized in July 1924 they were elected president and vice-president respectively. G. W. Robertson, another member of the provisional board, was chosen secretary. Other members of the first board were A. F. Sproule, A. E. Wilson, H. Marsh, Hon. R. S. Dundas, E. B. Ramsay, H. Smyth, A. E. Bye, C. W. Coates, A. Lefebvre, J. H. Hobson, Brooke Catton, R. J. Moffat, Thomas Bibby and J. H. Wesson.



THESE ARE THE DOCUMENTS on which the Wheat Pool was founded: 40,000 contracts covering 6,000,000 acres of Saskatchewan wheat land. Standing behind the pile of contracts are: (left to right) G. W. Robertson, secretary; R. B. Evans, Fred Pragnell, A. E. Wilson of Indian Head, chairman of the provisional board; Jack Watson and A. J. McPhail, a member of the provisional board and then secretary of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association.



At Bulyea, the Pool built its first elevator in 1925.

The purposes of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, as of the other western Pools was set out in the charter of the Central Selling Agency in these words:

"To be an agricultural organization instituted for the purpose of mutual help, to serve as the central marketing association for (its members), but for no others; to improve methods and reduce costs of marketing grain; to reduce speculation, manipulation and waste, and all unnecessary transactions in such marketing; to increase consumption, build up new markets and develop new uses for grain; to market same directly and with regularity, so as to furnish it economically to the users thereof; and to preserve for the growers and the public their proper profits and economies."

The financial crash of 1929 caught the Wheat Pool in a vulnerable spot. The wheat market dropped so rapidly that the Pool found itself unable to sell the crop at a price equal to its initial payment, which had seemed at the beginning of the season to allow a safe margin. The loss amounted to more than thirteen million dollars, and a guarantee was required from the Provincial Government to the banks. The debt has since been retired without loss to the taxpayers.

The Saskatchewan Pool, like those in other provinces, withdrew during the depression from the marketing method

which had been developed, since depressed market prices made the initial payment system impractical. With the advent of the Second World War the government closed the Winnipeg Grain Exchange in 1943 and took control of the Canadian wheat crop. The Pools welcomed the return of the system which their founders had asked the government to maintain in 1921 and 1922.

The Wheat Pool continues to advocate the principle of marketing wheat through a national board as a means of achieving a reasonable degree of price stability. It also believes that international action is necessary to achieve stability in the world wheat market, and therefore supports the maintenance and extension of the International Wheat Agreement as a means of guaranteeing the producers and consumers alike a reasonable price.

Begun as a protest against speculative handling of a basic food commodity, the Pool today supports those principles which promise to remove the most violent fluctuations from the amount of wheat traded and from the price at which it is traded. Its object, as business enterprise, is to attain the highest degree of efficiency in grain handling, thereby reducing the spread between the producer's income from wheat and the consumer's expenditure on bread.

The world's first Co-operative Refinery as it was in 1935.



Federated Co-operatives Limited

FEDERATED Co-operatives Limited had its origin among the members of the early Territorial Grain Growers.

Influenced by the early farm organization, and by recommendations of a Royal Commission, the government enacted the Agricultural Co-operative Associations Act in 1913. By the end of 1915, 173 associations had been incorporated under this legislation.

It was only natural that these associations should attempt to co-ordinate their buying power, and action was taken with this end in view under the Trading Department of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. This department met with varying degrees of success over the years, but in the late 20's volume had substantially dwindled and serious losses were incurred. It was then that the leaders of the United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section), successors to the S.G.G.A., conferred with a group of co-operative leaders, and as a result the Trading Department was taken over by the new group.

The Saskatchewan Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited was incorporated in 1929, the original incorporators being W. H. Beasley, Frank Eliason, Robert McKay, E. P. St. John, John J. Wellbelove, William Laird, C. G. Davidson, H. W. Ketcheson, and R. R. McSweeney. Progress was made during the early years, slowed to some extent by the depression, and a solid foundation was laid for future development.

It was during the 30's that a group of associations in the Regina-Moose Jaw-Weyburn area were formed for the purpose of handling petroleum products. In 1935 these associations, faced with a sharp increase in the price of

farm fuels, organized and built the Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Limited, the world's first co-operative refinery. This organization and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Wholesale Society grew side by side with ownership vested in practically the same co-operative associations, and in 1944 they amalgamated as Saskatchewan Federated Co-operatives Limited. Growth has continued to the point where it is expected that the volume of sales for the current year will exceed \$40,000,000.

The "Trading Department" organized by the members of the Territorial Grain Growers over 40 years ago, has grown and expanded through the years until today co-operative members, through their local co-op and Federated Co-operatives Limited, own a modern 12,500 barrel capacity catalytic cracking refinery in Regina; 27 oil wells in Alberta and Saskatchewan; a modern Lumber Mill at Canoe, B.C., with extensive timber resources; a coal mine and coal leases in Drumheller, Alta.; Feed manufacturing plants in Saskatoon and Winnipeg, and modern warehousing and office facilities in Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg. Total assets approach \$25,000,000 and savings through the years have exceeded \$11,000,000.

An important further step was taken in January 1955, when meetings of Saskatchewan Federated Co-operatives Limited in Saskatoon, and Manitoba Co-operative Wholesale Limited in Winnipeg, voted unanimously to merge under the present name of Federated Co-operatives Limited. Now the organization which had a very humble beginning stretches from the Great Lakes to the Alberta border, a consolidated and unified co-operative organization which will serve its members well in the years to come.

Federated Co-operative Refinery — 1952.



The Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture

THE beginnings of the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture go back to the summer of 1927, when representatives of various provincial co-operative and agricultural associations held informal discussions looking towards the formation of an organized conference where agricultural problems could be discussed.

A meeting in Saskatoon in January 1928 resulted, and a Provincial Co-operative Association, which was to meet quarterly, was formed. Original members in the conference included the United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section), now the Farmers' Union; Saskatchewan Wheat Pool; Saskatchewan Co-operative Wholesale Society, now Federated Co-operatives Limited; Saskatoon Dairy Pool; The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company.

At a later date the name was changed to the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture. The objectives, however, remained the same: to further the interests of agriculture in Saskatchewan; to co-ordinate the views of its member organizations in matters of agricultural policy in order to achieve and maintain a united front; to co-operate with similar organizations in other provinces in promoting the interests of agriculture at Western and National levels; to support and maintain a strong national Federation of farm organizations.

The present membership of the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture includes: Saskatchewan Wheat Pool; Saskatchewan Federated Co-operatives Ltd.; Saskatchewan Forage Crop Growers' Co-operative Marketing Association; Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries; Saskatchewan Women's Co-operative Guild; Saskatchewan Poultry Association; Saskatchewan Swine Breeders' Association; Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited; Co-operative Union of Saskatchewan; Co-operative Life Insurance Company; Co-operative Mutual Benefit Association Ltd.; Co-operative Hail Insurance. Invitations have also been extended to the Saskatchewan Association of

Rural Municipalities and the Dairy and Poultry Co-operative Marketing Association Limited.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture is the channel through which the farm people of Saskatchewan can reach out to grasp in fellowship the hands of farmers in 28 other nations of the world. The Saskatchewan federation is a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. The Canadian Federation, in turn, is a member of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. This organization is truly an international forum of farmers. At its annual and regional meetings, farmers of many lands are able to get together to discuss their common problems and to seek solutions which will be of lasting benefit to the people on the land in every country.

In the last two years, for example, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers has been giving attention to the problems connected with the disposal of agricultural surpluses. It is evident that the thoughtless distribution of surpluses might seriously injure the legitimate interests of producers elsewhere in the world. But the I.F.A.P. believes that the well-considered distribution of surpluses can help to raise living standards in under-developed countries, to the end that their own producers and the producers of other nations may reap lasting benefits. Work has been going forward in mapping out plans which will further this aim.

The Saskatchewan farmer who is a member of an organization belonging to the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture has a clear channel of communication through his organization, the Saskatchewan Federation and the Canadian Federation to the international body of farmers.

The seed which the pioneer farmers of Indian Head planted when they organized the Territorial Grain Growers' Association, and similar seeds sown by farmers in many parts of the world, have grown into a great international organization through which the farmers of many lands can work together to improve their common lot.



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